



Many children and youth with vision loss are excluded from extracurricular activities in school and in their communities;

- more than **70 per cent** of youth are left out of sports and recreation programs
- almost **80 per cent** of youth do not belong to clubs due to inaccessibility.
- **1/3** parents of children who are blind or have low vision say their child has never received an invite to a birthday party or other special occasions.



And if that isn't enough - youth with vision loss experience higher rates of isolation, depression, and other mental health challenges compared to their sighted peers. **They are also more likely to face bullying at school and are less likely to graduate and land meaningful employment in their adult years.**

Meet Josh

"Diagnosed with Stargardt disease as a child, Joshua began to learn how to sail through the Camp Abilities program at CNIB Lake Joe in 2012. Six years later, he represented Canada at the World Blind Sailing Championships in Scotland. "If I hadn't been introduced to sailing at Lake Joe, I never would have learned those skills or gained the confidence I have," says Joshua.

"Blindness is a gift, not a curse. There are so many things you can do! Don't put limitations on yourself."

Before I went to camp, I felt isolated. I was the only person I knew with a visual impairment," says Joshua. **"I wanted to be around other people with sight loss. Lake Joe really put things into perspective for me."** - Joshua, camper



What Donors Like You Make Possible



CNIB is levelling the playing field for children with vision loss by developing life-changing programs, imparting vital knowledge, enabling people to lead fuller, more independent lives, demanding societal reform and inspiring change. It is critical that we work together to ensure that all our programs are successful. But we cannot do it alone. We can only accomplish this with your support.

By giving the gift of a Campership, you help a child with vision loss experience the magic of camp in a safe and accessible environment. Your generosity offers an opportunity for Kids of all Ages with vision loss to connect with other participants with vision loss, belong to a community, engage in fun camp activities and develop skills empowering them to live the lives they choose.



Your gift of \$2500 will transform the life of a child with blindness or low vision by enabling them to travel to the only accessible camp designed for people who are blind, Deafblind and have low vision across Canada and experience the excitement of rock-climbing, water sports, campfires, learning new skills, building friendships, and more in a fully supported and safe environment.



Meet Gabriel



When 12-year-old Gabriel arrived at CNIB Lake Joe, it felt like he'd found his second home. For the first time, he was among kids who, like him, faced the challenges of vision loss. "In those moments, I felt comfort and acceptance," Gabriel shared. "I was genuinely happy there. Lake Joe has given me confidence and courage," Gabriel said. "It's helped me dive into life with enthusiasm."

CNIB Lake Joe not only empowers campers physically but also provides a safe space for them to be themselves without judgment or barriers. "Going to camp made me feel like I wasn't alone," Gabriel explained. "There are many others dealing with the same challenges."

"I'm incredibly grateful. I meet wonderful people and have amazing interactive experiences that make me feel fully included. **Personally, I think it's better than Disneyland!**" - Gabriel, camper

For more information visit cnib.ca/LakeJoe or contact Steve Smyth, Senior Manager Philanthropy and Campaign (CNIB Lake Joe) E. Steven.Smyth@cnib.ca C. 416-319-5493